

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A combination of a foaming agent and a molten metal used for manufacturing a foamed or porous metal, the combination comprising:

a mixture of foaming agent including a foamable powder; and  
a coating layer of  $\text{SiO}_2$   $\text{SiO}_2$  covering the particle surfaces of the powder; and  
a molten metal.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The combination according to claim 1, wherein the powder is of a carbonate.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The combination according to claim 2 4, wherein the carbonate is  $\text{CaCO}_3$  or  $\text{MgCO}_3$ .

4. **(Currently Amended)** The combination according to claim 2 4, wherein the carbonate is  $\text{MgCO}_3$ .

5. **(Previously Presented)** The combination according to claim 1, wherein the molten metal is molten aluminum.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A method of foaming agent used for manufacturing a foamed or porous metal, the method comprising:

preparing a foamable powder of  $\text{MgCO}_3$ ; and having a coating layer of  $\text{SiO}_2$   $\text{SiO}_2$  covering the particle surfaces of the foamable powder;

adding the foamable powder as a foaming agent into a molten metal,  
wherein heat from the molten metal gasifies the foamable powder; and

cooling the molten metal to yield the foamed or porous metal, wherein the foamed or porous metal includes a plurality of pores formed from gasification of the particles of the foamable powder.